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A NOTICE OF A NEW AREA OF DEVONIAN ROCKS IN WISCONSIN

THERE is an outcrop of Devonian rock on the shore of Lake Michigan in this state, ten miles north of Port Washington and about a mile southeast of the little village of Lake Church, which has hitherto escaped the notice of geologists. The discovery of this exposure by the writer in the summer of 1896 was somewhat of a surprise as all the nearest outcrops of rock, to the north, south, and west, belong to the Niagara formation. In the neighborhood of Lake Church the heavy drift deposits, which form high bluffs on the very edge of the lake at Milwaukee and at Port Washington, recede quite a distance from the shore and take the form of a series of rolling ridges which increase in height towards the west. Between the lowest of these ridges and the lake there stretches a sort of terrace, elevated only five or six feet above the lake level at its eastern margin and rising very gradually as it recedes from the shore. The rock in question forms the floor of this terrace and crops out in various places in the neighborhood upon the beach and under the water. It is also uncovered in the bed of a little watercourse which traverses the terrace. The strata are nearly level but probably dip slightly towards the east. The rock is an impure limestone, somewhat earthy in composition and somewhat granular or sandy to the touch. An inconsiderable excavation has been made in it by the owners, disclosing a thickness of about six feet of Devonian strata, beneath which is a transition layer of bluish shaly rock, resting on a very hard, white, crystalline limestone which probably belongs to the Niagara.

About sixty species of fossils have been obtained from the upper layers, all of which, with the exception of a single fragmentary dental plate of Rhynchodus, are in the form of casts and impressions, a fact which renders their determination a matter of some difficulty. The fauna comprises about twenty-four species of brachiopods, twelve or thirteen of gastropods, nine corals and half a dozen pelecypods. *Orthoceras*, *Rhynchodus*, and *Proëtus* are each represented by a single species; there are scattered crinoid joints and a few other species whose generic relations, even, have not yet been satisfactorily determined.

Among the most abundant species are: *Chonetes scitulus* Hall, *Stropheodonata nacrea* Hall, *Atrypa reticularis* L. and a species of *Spirifer* with a marked depression in the fold of the brachial and a remarkably broad and strongly impressed muscular area in the pedicle valve. Two or three other species, both of *Spirifer* and of *Stropheodonta*, are apparently represented. *Stropheodonta demissa* Conrad is probably one of the latter; another is a strongly arcuate form, with a thick shell and an almost smooth surface. Among other species which have been identified are *Cyrtina hamiltonensis* Hall (rare), *Orthis impressa* Hall (a single specimen), *Atrypa spinosa* Hall, *Productella spinulicosta* Hall, and *Conocardium cuneus* Conrad (the three last fairly common). There is also a species of *Athyris;* one of *Meristella;* a *Cyclonema*, near *C. multilira* Hall; two species of *Loxonema* of ordinary form; a tapering *Turritella*-shaped shell, with both revolving and transverse striae, resembling but not identical with certain forms occurring in the Devonian of Manitoba and referred by Whiteaves to the genus *Loxonema;* a *Murchisonia*, near *M. turbinata* Schlotheim; a *Trochonema*-like shell with strongly angular and nodose revolving ridges; a *Bellerophon*, near *B. pelops* Hall or *B. newberryi* Meek; a *Paracyclas* and a *Mytilarca*. Among corals are a species of *Streptelasma;* one of *Zaphrentis;* one of *Acervularia* and another of an allied genus; and a species of *Favosites*.

The rock in which this fauna has been discovered is thought to constitute good material for road-making. A more extensive development of the quarry, which it is hoped will take place before long, will furnish opportunities for more satisfactory investigation of the fossils.

CHARLES E. MONROE.

MILWAUKEE, WIS.,
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